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A NEW MARSH WREN FROM ALBERTA.

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In June and July, 1920, a series of *Telmatodytes palustris* was collected on the Athabaska Delta by Hamilton M. Laing, J. Alden Loring, and myself, while carrying on field work in behalf of the U. S. Biological Survey and Dr. John C. Phillips. These specimens appear to represent a distinct new subspecies, which may be known as

*Telmatodytes palustris laingi*, <sup>1</sup> subsp. nov.

ALBERTA MARSH WREN.

*Type locality*.—Athabaska Delta, Main Branch (9 miles above mouth), Alberta, Canada.

*Type specimen*.—No. 231790, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy; adult male; collected June 3, 1920, by Francis Harper and J. Alden Loring; orig. no. 142.

*Subspecific characters*.—Nearest to *T. p. iliacus*, but paler on scapulars, rump, upper tail-coverts, and flanks; median area on forehead and crown more distinct. (*T. p. plesius* is a much browner and duller bird than *laingi*.)

*Geographic range*.—In summer, Alberta and western Saskatchewan.

*Description of type*.—Pileum dull black, with a fairly well-defined median area of Dresden brown on forehead and crown; interscapulars black, streaked with white; scapulars buffy brown; rump and upper tail-coverts cinnamon-brown; rectrices buffy brown, the middle pair faintly barred with dusky, the others broadly barred with dull black; wing-coverts buffy brown, the greater faintly barred with dusky; outer webs of tertials dull black, serrated exteriorly with buffy brown; remiges otherwise Chaetura drab, edged with light drab; a narrow superciliary stripe of white, streaked with blackish above and in front of orbit; under parts dull white, passing on sides and flanks into pale buffy brown; breast tinged with light buff; under tail-coverts indistinctly barred with cinnamon-buff.

*Measurements*.—Type: length (skin), 114; wing, 53; tail, 41; exposed culmen, 13.5; tarsus, 20. Extreme and average measurements of four adult males (including type) from Athabaska Delta: length (skin), 100-114 (106.5); wing, 50.5-54.5 (52.6); tail, 35.5-41.5 (39.8); exposed culmen, 13.5-14 (13.9); tarsus, 19-20 (19.6).

*Specimens examined*.—ALBERTA: Athabaska Delta, Main Branch (9 miles above mouth), 6;<sup>2</sup> Athabaska Delta, Egg Lake (15 mi. NW. of Chipewyan),

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<sup>1</sup> Named for Hamilton M. Laing, in appreciation of his writings on the bird life of western Canada.

<sup>2</sup> Biol. Surv., 4; Mus. Comp. Zoöl., 2.

2;<sup>1</sup> Peace River Landing, 1;<sup>2</sup> Lake Majua, Belvedere, 6;<sup>2</sup> Edmonton, 4.<sup>2</sup> SASKATCHEWAN: Last Mountain Lake, 2.<sup>2</sup>

*Remarks.*—Specimens from central Alberta have hitherto been referred to *plesius* (Oberholser, Auk, vol. 14, p. 192, 1897) and to *iliacus* (Ridgway, Bull. 50, U. S. Nat. Mus., pt. 3, p. 493, 1904; Preble, N. A. Fauna No. 27, p. 484, 1908; Macoun and Macoun, Cat. Can. Birds, p. 708, 1909).

Intergradation with *iliacus* seems to take place in south central Saskatchewan. Specimens from Last Mountain Lake and Kutawagan Lake are apparently intermediate, two from the first-mentioned locality being nearer to *laingi*, and three from Kutawagan Lake perhaps nearer to *iliacus*. The area of intergradation may coincide with the approximate boundary between the prairies on the east and the plains on the west.

May, June, and July specimens of *laingi* exhibit a much more abraded condition of plumage than do specimens of other subspecies taken during the same months.

So far as known, the Athabaska Delta is the northernmost locality at which any Marsh Wrens breed. In Alberta none have been recorded previously from a more northerly point than Peace River Landing.

I am under obligations to Dr. Jonathan Dwight, to Mr. Outram Bangs, of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, and to Mr. P. A. Taverner, of the Victoria Memorial Museum, for the privilege of examining comparative material in the collections under their charge.

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<sup>1</sup> Mus. Comp. Zoöl.

<sup>2</sup> Victoria Mem. Mus.